



A chief from Garissa Township (right) dances with community members at the Garissa County CVE Action Plan Launch. The County Action Plan process brought together community members and government officials to address violent extremism in Garissa County. Photo: Hank Nelson/USAID

## KENYA

### KENYA NIWAJIBU WETU

NIWETU improves the capabilities of communities and government to identify and respond to violent extremism threats in Kenya. Kenya NiWajibu Wetu is a Kiswahili phrase that translates to “Kenya is Our Responsibility”. NIWETU’s technical approach is grounded in Kenya’s National Strategy to Counter Violent Extremism. It finds inspiration in the Kenyan National Anthem and Constitution of Kenya (2010) Bill of Rights, which encourages action and partnership between communities and government in the pursuit of national security.

#### OUR WORK

NIWETU leads USAID’s countering violent extremism (CVE) efforts to achieve two key objectives in Kenya:

- (1) Community mobilization to address violent extremism enhanced; and
- (2) Government responsiveness to violent extremism improved.

NIWETU builds CVE knowledge and skills among at-risk populations and empowers local, sustainable CVE networks to take action to address violent extremism. NIWETU also provides targeted CVE assistance to county governments, strengthens national and inter-governmental CVE platforms, and develops indigenous CVE research capabilities of Government of Kenya counterparts.

NIWETU's approach centers on applied learning, with responsive, flexible, and adaptive programming grounded in local dynamics. NIWETU utilizes a robust Complexity Aware Planning Cycle Framework, which aids strategic and implementation decision making. This framework includes a responsive research agenda that increases knowledge and understanding for NIWETU, the U.S. Government, the Government of Kenya, and non-government counterparts. For example, NIWETU completed research on the "10 Essential Ingredients" for successful development and implementation of a county action plan to counter violent extremism. The National Counter Terrorism Center is incorporating the research recommendations in the implementation of county action plans in Kenya.

NIWETU has transformed USAID's CVE approach. USAID recently drafted a new CVE policy, using knowledge and experience from NIWETU. Lessons learned include the effectiveness of strengthening the commitment and capacity of governments and communities to create systems of trust to prevent violent extremism.

## ACHIEVEMENTS

To date, NIWETU has:

- Supported 41 counties across Kenya to develop inclusive, locally informed county action plans to counter violent extremism.
- Trained 860 county and national officials on CVE skills and knowledge.
- Supported 52 CVE community champions to develop and implement locally specific CVE action plans in Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Nairobi, and Wajir counties.
- Trained 63 people on CVE facilitation who have led sessions with 1,200 community members in Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Nairobi, and Wajir counties.
- Benefitted 9,754 women, youth, and marginalized individuals through CVE knowledge and skills training, mentorship activities, and networking efforts, including 381 women and 576 youth leaders.

**BUDGET:** \$20 million

**DURATION**  
2016 – 2020

**ACTIVITY LOCATIONS:**  
Core Counties: Garissa, Isiolo, Mandera, Nairobi, and Wajir  
Authorized to work countrywide

**IMPLEMENTING PARTNER**  
DAI Global LLC

**KEY PARTNERS**

- National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC),
- Kenya School of Government (KSG),
- County Governments,
- Civil Society and Community-Based Organizations,
- Wasafiri (a local research organization)

**USAID CONTACTS**  
John Langlois  
Senior Advisor for Countering Violent Extremism  
Tel: + 254-20-363-2000  
Email: [jlanglois@usaid.gov](mailto:jlanglois@usaid.gov)

**PARTNER CONTACTS**  
John Sampson  
Chief of Party  
Email: [niwetu\\_info@dai.com](mailto:niwetu_info@dai.com)

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**  
Email: [usaidkea@usaid.gov](mailto:usaidkea@usaid.gov)  
Website: [www.usaid.gov/kenya](http://www.usaid.gov/kenya)  
Facebook: USAIDKenya  
Twitter: @USAIDKenya